

MAG Hosts Western States at Annual Transportation Planning Conference

Transportation planning experts from around the West will convene in Phoenix from September 30 through October 2, as the Maricopa Association of Governments hosts the Western States Intermodal Planning Group 2001 Annual Conference.



The theme of the two-and-a-half day conference is “Diversity in the 21st Century and the Challenge to Transportation.” A special invitation has been issued to Native American communities to encourage their attendance and participation in the conference.

The conference will focus on a variety of regional transportation

issues, especially those commonly affecting Western states.

“The conference represents a significant opportunity for transportation professionals to share concerns, ideas and solutions for improving our transportation systems,” said MAG Executive Director James M. Bourey. “While some issues are unique to individual regions, it’s often surprising to learn just how many of the same challenges we face across the country. We hope those attending the conference will walk away with some great ideas and insights on how we can all better serve our transportation constituencies.”

The jam-packed agenda for the two-and-a-half day conference will feature more than a dozen sessions, including an overview of what’s happening in transportation in the Western United States; regional governance in terms of how growth, trade, the new economy and changing demographics are causing many regions to rethink their organizational structure; and how to integrate multi-modal projects in transportation plans. “Multi-modal” refers to a variety of transportation modes, such as bicycle and pedestrian projects. That session will include a review of the transit-related challenges Utah has faced in preparing for the Olympics.


Other sessions will focus on such issues as future freight challenges and Intelligent Transportation

Systems – technology applications and devices for improving safety and efficiency in the movement of people and goods.

A special session at Sky Harbor Airport will examine airspace and airport congestion – how to reduce delays and inconvenience to travelers through new technology, computer modeling, airport master planning, and collaboration with airlines, the military and general aviation. Speakers will include Jeff Griffith, Deputy Director of Air Traffic Service of the Federal Aviation Administration in Washington, D.C.

Additional discussions will look at how legislation protecting minority populations and low-income communities can be incorporated into transportation planning.

The conference dinner Monday, October 1st will include an address by Linnea Bernard McCord, an associate professor of business law from Pepperdine University. McCord will address issues of the global economy in the Western United States, specifically focusing on issues of diversity.

The final session will look at how to use videoconferencing in the months ahead to continue the regional dialogue established at the conference. 

The agenda and registration forms are available on the MAG Web site at: www.mag.maricopa.gov/ipg/index.htm